

"Extract from Entry from Baron HIRATA's Diary, 17 July 40"

At 1:00 A.M. a meeting to select the new premier was held and attended by President of the Privy Council HARA and former Premiers TANAKA, OKADA, HIRATA, MATSUDA, KATO and MIYAGAWA. Their free opinions were requested.

President HARA asked the true reason why the YAMAGATA Cabinet had to resign, and the Lord Keeper of the Privy Seal outlined roughly that the Army thought the present Cabinet was incapable of carrying out satisfactorily foreign policy under present changing world conditions. He also said that the Army seemed to have expressed its intention of political approach with Germany and Italy, and its opinion was that the government was unable to obtain satisfactory results in carrying out internal policies, as it was separated from the public. The Army's ideas were quite different from those of the Cabinet, and the Cabinet was unable to control it.

TANAKA first spoke and recommended Prince KONOYE as the most suitable person for the next premier. HARA, HIRATA, MATSUDA and OKADA supported TANAKA's suggestion.

Prince KONOYE, saying that he is not fit for the post, wished to recommend someone who was closer to the military. To this suggestion, the Lord Privy Seal stated that the military leaders seemed to be overwhelmingly in support of Prince KONOYE.

Baron HIRATA regretted the bad old custom by which the Cabinet fell because of the War Minister's resignation. In principle a Cabinet should be able to continue by finding itself a successor to the post of War Minister, but since it became customary to depend upon the recommendation of the three Chief Military Officers it resulted in the present undesirable state of affairs.

Mr. HIRATA supported Prince KONOYE's appointment for there was no person better fitted than him. The meeting adjourned at 1:30 A.M.

The Chief Secretary of the Lord Privy Seal was dispatched to Prince SATO to obtain his opinion on the above decision but as, in addition to being ill, he was also uninformed of the recent political

condition, he regretted his inability to give a definite opinion. Under these circumstances, Prince MONCYE was recommended to his Majesty and was accepted.

Prince MONCYE was called to the Palace by His Majesty and an Imperial mandate was issued to him at 8:00 P.M.

The Prince expressed his idea that today he was going to ask the War Minister to pick a successor who could cooperate with the Navy, and also the Navy Minister to pick one who could work smoothly with the Army. When these two Ministers have made their decisions, he would add a Foreign Minister. After confirming cooperation regarding national defence and diplomacy between the Navy and Army, and also between the Supreme Command and politics, he would then commence selection of other Cabinet members.

At 8:45 P.M. I was received in audience again and then Prince MONCYE's intention was reported to him, His Majesty was quite content.

DOC 1632W(40)

EXTRACT FROM ENTRY FROM MARQUIS KIDO'S DIARY, 12 Sept. 1940.

12th September, 1940 - (Extract)

Prince KONOYE met me before and after being received in audience with the Emperor and told me the following:

Stahmer arrived recently from Germany and met Foreign Minister MATSUOKA three times, trying to make proposals to conclude a military alliance. When this was discussed at the Four Ministers' Conference, the Army immediately agreed, while the navy wished to study it and is going to hold a liaison conference within several days. As the situation does not permit holding meetings for twenty or thirty times, a decision must be made somehow or other.

Not used.

Dec 1632 W (40)

水戸侯爵日記 昭和十三年九月十二日分
九月十二日 (木)

午前十時出勤

近衛武官來室海軍次官軍令部次長二會希望
ノ會話アリ承諾ス

十一時武官長ト訪談前夜ノミツキ應談ス

吉田増藏氏來室面談

秋山府司長來室面談

三時近衛首相參内拜謁ノ前後ニ面談ス左ノ
如キ話アリ

近衛猶乙ヨリスターマー來朝既ニ本國外相
ト三國會見ス矢張り軍事同盟ヲ合ム提案アリ
四國會談ニテ協議シタルニ海軍ハ直ニ同意
シタルモ海軍ハ研究シタリトノコトニテ數
日中ニ連絡會議ヲ開ク事ナリ今度ハ數日間
ノ會議ヲ重スル事ニハ行カスノ事何トカ決
定シナクテハナラヌト思フ云々

午後七時北白川官邸ニ朝長正長參内ノ後ニ
ツキ拜禮ス

Entry from Marquis KIDO's Diary

1 February (Saturday) /1941/

Fine.

Went to the office at 10 A. M., and spoke with Premier KONOYE. Prince FUSHIMI, Chief of the Naval General Staff, Premier KONOYE and SUGIYAMA, Chief of the Army General Staff came to the Palace together. They were received in audience by His Majesty and reported in outline to the Emperor the policy towards French Indo-China and Thailand decided at the Liaison Conference between Imperial Headquarters and the government on 30 January. It is a new precedent for the Chiefs of Staff, and the Premier to be received in audience by His Majesty and to report at the same time. Up to the present important decisions of the Liaison Conferences have been reported to the Throne at Imperial Conferences, and other decisions individually by the government and Imperial Headquarters. However, this time as an intermediate way both parties have presented a report to the Throne at the same time. I was told that in this connection the Premier proposed that an Imperial Conference be held, but as the broad principle had already been approved by the Emperor, they asked Him in this way. At 10:10 the Chief Aide-de-Camp visited me and spoke approximately as follows:-

Re the general principle of the policy towards French Indo-China and Thailand:

The purpose of this plan is to establish the leading position of the Empire in French Indo-China and Thailand by utilizing the opportunity presented by their having accepted our arbitration, in order to contribute to the preparation for the Southward policy. The Navy aims to use Camranh Bay and the air bases near SAIGON. But as this cannot be stated openly it has been decided to represent the action taken as aimed at the preservation of trade and communications, and security against war between French Indo-China and Thailand. In case military force is to be used to attain the objective, it has been decided to ask the further approval of the Emperor.

At 11:30 Prince KONOYE came to my office after having been received in audience by His Majesty and we talked about policies and other matters.

At Noon Foreign Minister MATSUOKA came to my office after having been received in audience by the Emperor, and spoke approximately as follows:

When the broad policy towards French Indo-China and Thailand was decided, the Army planned to limit the time to the end of March, but he had opposed it as being impossible, and had made the Army cancel it. He intends to conduct future diplomacy on the following lines as reported today to the Emperor. It is assumed that the liaison conference on the third will decide on the plan which he will take with him on his visit to Germany and Soviet Russia. He will shortly visit Germany and find out the actual state of German policy towards Britain from HI/ T. V. HITLER/, R I /T. W. RIBBENTROP/ and others, and he will make full arrangements with them. At the same time he would like to adjust our relations with the Soviet Union and to contrive a general peace with China by the end of April. Then he intends to concentrate our whole strength toward the South. Without a solution of the Southern question, no real solution of the China Incident can be attained; therefore the Southern question is an important one, one on which the nation's fate hangs. For this reason, he continued, it would be necessary to bring about a state of things which would enable the whole energy of the nation to be concentrated on it. And so forth.

At 7:30 P. M. Mr. Genki ABE, called on me and we talked .

EX 1985

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Page 1.

Extract from Entry from Marquis KIDO's Diary

13th March 1942

I went to the office at 10.00 a.m.

At 3 o'clock the Imperial Household Minister came to the office and told me about Eden's address in Parliament concerning our soldiers' atrocities at Hong Kong, and we exchanged opinions.

1986

Doc. No. 1632W(96)

Page 1 *

Extract from Entry from Marquis KIDO's Diary

21st May 1942

Chief aide-de-camp came to my room and related to me about the manner in which the American POWs taken in the /T.M. Doolittle/ air raid were dealt with.

"Entry from Marquis KIDO's Diary, 20 July 1944"

20 July, Thursday. Cloudy and fine.

At 8 A.M. Mr. HIROSE, and at 8:30 Mr. FUJIYAMA, Aichiro called on me and gave me information.

Chief Secretary MATSUDAIRA called on me at 9 and reported the views of each senior statesman. General ABE telephoned me that he could not agree.

From 10:55 to 11:23 I was received in audience by the Emperor and reported in detail the plan for the coalition with YONAI whereupon the plan was accepted. Came home at noon. Accompanied EMIKO and CHIKAYOSHI to Tokyo Station on my way to the Palace. Was received in audience from 2:55 to 3:20.

Conference of Senior Statesmen reconvened at 4, and I fully explained the development regarding the coalition. General ABE also revoked his disapproval.

At 4:15 Governor-General KOISO arrived from Korea and immediately came to the Palace. I explained in detail the political situation leading to the resignation en bloc.

I was received in audience from 4:50 to 4:58 and reported to the Throne until I asked his Majesty to summon KOISO and YONAI.

General KOISO and Admiral YONAI were received in audience at the Imperial Study at 5:10. His Majesty gave his message, "SUBJECTS, form a cabinet in cooperation", telling them to observe the text of the Constitution, and to handle the affairs so as not to irritate the Soviet in order that the Greater East Asia War might be accomplished.

As it was also General KOISO's wish, ^{a place} at 5:30 I took the General and the Admiral to where the senior statesmen were meeting and brought them together.

I was received in audience from 5:50 to 6:05. Prince KOROYE came to my office at 6:10 and we had a talk. At 7:30 General KOISO called on me at my home and told me about his discussion with Premier TOJO and Chief of Army General Staff UMEZU.

Ex 1298

DOCUMENT NO. 1632 NY

PAGE 1

KIDO's DIARY

10 August, 1940 (Sat.) (Cloudy - rainy).

Went to the office at eleven.

At 11:30 conferred with Chief Aide-de-Camp re the progress of the campaign against the Chungking regime since the last time.

At 1:45 was received in audience.

The Emperor told me what he and Prince FUSHIMI, Chief of the Navy General Staff, had talked about when they dined together. The Prince said that the Navy at present wishes to avoid the use of force against the Netherlands Indies and Singapore; and that, since at least eight months will be required for preparation after a decision for war is made, the later war comes the better.

Withdrawing from the Imperial presence at 2:35, I returned home immediately. As Mr. HARADA had informed me by telephone of young Mrs. HOSOKAWA's critical illness, I returned to Tokyo with TSURUKO by the 4:19 train.

After supper went to the HOSOKAWA residence with TSURUKO for a visit. The invalid was in a serious condition and was already unconscious, so bidding eternal farewell we returned home at 9:00.

At 10:18 in the evening a message came from Marquis HOSOKAWA that his young wife had died. It is a pity.

木戸侯日記ヨリノ抜萃

一九四四年ノ昭和十五年八月十日

八月十日(王)曇雨

十一時出勤

十一時半武官長ト重慶工作ノ其後ノ経緯ニツキ會談ス
一時四十五分拝謁伏見軍令部總長、宮ト御會食
ノ際ノ御話ニツキ御話アリ 總長官ハ現在海軍トシテ
ハ蘭印シンガポール等ニ対シ武力行使ニ出ツルハ避ケ
タク戦争ノ決意ヲナシテヨリ少フトモ準備ニハヶ月ヲ
要スルガ故ニ戦争ハトルベク遅キ程宜シトノ御話アリ
二時三十五分御前ヲ退下直ニ歸宅ス

原田君ヨリ電話ニテ細川若夫人重態トノ電話アリシ
故四時十九分発電車ニテ鶴子同伴歸京ス

夕食後七時半鶴子ト細川邸ヲ見舞フ危篤ノ状態
ニテ既ニ意識ナシ永訣ス 九時歸宅

夜十時十八分若夫人逝去ノ旨細川侯ヨリ通知シ来ル
氣ノ毒ナリ

FILE COPY
RETURN TO ROOM 361

Handwritten text in Chinese, likely a letter or document, written in vertical columns. The text is faint and mostly illegible due to fading and bleed-through from the reverse side. It appears to be a formal or semi-formal communication, possibly a letter of introduction or a report.

IPS DOC 1632 PP

(Entry from Marquis KIDO's Diary for 12 December 1938)

Dec. 12, 1938, Monday - Fair

At 10 A.M. I attended a meeting of the Onium Committee held at my official residence.

At 2 P.M. I was visited by Mr. KATO, Satoratsu, who told me of the situation in Manchuria.

At 3 P.M. I visited the Premier at /his private residence at/ Ogikubo. He said that neither the army stratagem, already being devised, was very reliable, nor the situation in various quarters was very satisfactory. The situation was, as it is called, at a deadlock. The Premier, then, consulted me about his intention to resign, taking advantage of the long-term construction having already been started. I replied that I could hardly agree to the Premier's opinion immediately, and said that the most responsible person at present was the War Minister who has dispatched an army of 1,600,000 strong overseas, and therefore the resignation of the Premier without complete understanding and consent by the War Minister would bring the latter to bay which would be undesirable in view of the Premier's relations with Lt. General ITAGAKI. Furthermore, I told him that it was reported that WANG CHAO-MING, on the 18th, would escape from Chungking, and for the present it was not good to disclose any political unrest in our country. Wishing to consult the War Minister myself, I asked the Premier to leave the matter to me. The Premier finally consented.

At 6 P.M. held a dinner party at /Restaurant/ Kinsui. The guests, ten in all, were my old schoolmates of the Peers School, including NAGAYO, SATAKE and NAGAOYA.

Doc 1632-a a

No. 2

其主張ナライノ如カ支那ト戦フコトニテハ見ルト兵力が足りナク思ヒ
切ツテ滿洲國境ヨリ廻シハト云ツテモソシハ未ダイト云フ様ナコトデ
トウ<今日ニ迄ナツテシマツトノ御話アリタリ

昨日陸軍大臣トモ話ヲ見タノ如カ重要又工作モ当初考ヘテ様ニ
中々進マズコナラハ四軍程會見ノ場所其他ノコトヲ提案シテ居
ルニ先方ハ之ニ答ヘズ矢張り長シヲ主張シテ居ルワウケ陸軍大
臣ハ若シ此ノ工作が失敗シタラ独乙ニ頼リコトニナルカウトノコトヲアツタ
米國カウモ云ツテ未ダ居ルカ之ハ内政的ニモ様々御意カアリコナラヒ向
譲歩ヲ餘儀ナクセラルニトナルデアラウカラ拒絶スル續リダト申シテ
居タ之ハ外相同様ノ意見見ケクウケ陸軍部内モソウ云フ状況
ナノデシヨウソウノ氣分ニ駆ラシテ何カ不測ノコトモ起ラサケハヨ
カト話シテ居タトモ御話ガアツタ

二時半松平内閣長ヨリ電話アリ東京ノ状況ヲ聴ク
四時歸宅

五時重光氏来訪 新体制ニ関スル政黨三側ノ動向軍務
局方面ノ見解ヲ聴ク陸相ニハ最初ハ軍務中將ノ論相當
ニアリテ昨今ハ阿南一色ニナレトノコトナリ

七時半松井成勳来訪 松井澤ニ近衛公ヲ訪問シタル際ノ
話ヲ聴ク八時頃老考東京ヨリ来ル

Doc 1632-aa

No. 1

「木戸侯日記」の校訂

一九四〇年／昭和十五年／七月十一日 木 晴後雨

朝食前海岸を散歩ス。十時半頃太子東京ヨリ來着。十一時出勤。
十二時十分御召ヨリ拜謁ス。午前中海岸へ御出スアリシ儘、水着、御着
ニ御召ヨリ遊タル御氣持ニテ四方山、御話アリ。十二時三十分ニ及ベリ。
近衛公、新体制、問題、其後、経過ニテ御尋ネテ、尚左ノ如キ
要旨、御話モアリタリ。

一、英國ハ援將ルート閉鎖、我方、申入ヲ拒絶シ、来ルノデハナク、田心
ルカ其場合香港を占領スルコトニテ結局宣戦ト云フコトニナルノデハ
イカネ。ソウスレハ米國ハウケトモエハ、手段ニ出ルガロウト、御言
葉アリ。故万一如斯事能ハナリヌ場合ニハ我國ハ十二分、研究ト
十二分、覚悟ヲ以テ立上ルニ必要アリト考ヘヌ。ミナニ國民モ十分
覚悟ニシテナケレバナリ。コレノデアリヌカウ手續等モ輕クニシテ大
本營軍總會議御前會議等尤ハ慎重ニ致シ、先ノ如キ事
ニ引揚ラレ、様コトニテラヌ様致サネハナリ。コレト答ハル。又、即事最
ニアラタノ如キ御氣持アリタリ。海軍関係事件、起ラレ前カウガ
ドウモ支那トハ結局戦ハナケレバ、様思ハレタノカ。而シテ一面、ソダシ
ニ備ヘナケレバ、ソウスレハ支那トハ一應名ラセ協スルノ外ナカウ。田心
實ハカムヤツカノ問題ト云フコトニテ、居タカ。總長宮ト陸相ヲ招キ、其
実ハドウカト尋ネタトコロ、陸軍トテハ對ソノ準備ハ心配ハタイ支那ト
万ニ戦争トナラモ二三月ヲ片付ト云フ様ナ意味、答申サス。タ
テ其ノ儘トナラシメタ。私ノ考ヘテハ實ハ近衛ニ話テ御前會議
ヲモ開クコトニ決シヨウト思フ。ソノミナニ軍の反對テハ、駄目ナノ事
々事ニ話テ見タラロ。ソウスレハ譯テ駄目カウカ。ソナラシメ、一應、

(Entry from Marquis KIDO's Diary for 11 July 1940)

July 11, Thursday, Fair, later Rain.

Before breakfast, went for a walk on the sea-shore.

At 10:30, EMIKO arrived from Tokyo. At 11:00 attended the office. At 11:10, I was received in audience by His Majesty. In the same plain clothes he wore this morning while walking on the beach, His Majesty talked on general subjects till 12:35 in an open and unreserved manner. He asked me how Prince KONOE's New System problem was coming along. Further, he expressed his views, the substance of which was as follows:

1. "I am inclined to think that Britain will reject our proposal for closing the "Aid-Chiang Route". In such case, will not the occupation of Hongkong become necessary, and result in the declaration of war? If so, the U.S.A. would probably resort at least to embargo measures."

To these words, I replied: "In case such a situation comes about, I believe it is not only necessary for our nation to rise up with deep consideration and a full determination, but it also requires a firm resolution on the part of our people. Therefore, the matter should be handled very prudently by the Liaison Conference of the Imperial General Headquarters and the Imperial Conference so that we do not become involved in incidents which may occur abroad."

His Majesty also stated regarding the China Incident as follows: "Before the Marco-Polo Bridge Incident happened, I felt a war with China was inevitable. However, I thought it absolutely necessary to compromise with her for the time being because of the need of defense against Soviet Russia on the other hand. As the Kamchatka problem was at that time an issue, I called the Imperial Prince, who was Chief of the Army General Staff and the War Minister to ask for their views on this matter. Their answer was something to the effect that as far as the Army is concerned, there is no need for worry about preparations against Soviet Russia and that a war with China, if it occurs, could be brought to an end within two or three months. Consequently, my idea was left unrealized. My intention was to, after consulting KONOE, hold an Imperial Conference in order to make a final decision on the matter, but I feared such a conference would end in failure if the Army is opposed to my idea. This is why I talked with the military heads in advance, but the result was unsatisfactory as I have already said. Such was their assertion, and that assertion would be justified if they stuck to it, but once the war begun with China, they instantly suffered lack in military force, and yet when I advised venturing the transfer of troops from the Soviet-Manchukuo border, they replied they could not. Thus, the present condition of the situation was created."

His Majesty continued to talk as follows:

"I talked with the War Minister yesterday. According to him, the Chungking operations are not progressing as smoothly as we had expected at first, and to our four proposals, including the place of meeting, they have not answered, but I hear they still insist on Changsha. The War Minister said that in case this scheme should fail, they should ask for mediation by Germany. He added that he had already received an offer from the U.S.A., which he intends to reject for fear of the various influences on internal politics and the concessions we will be forced to make. He said that the Minister of Foreign Affairs is of the same opinion. Such being the case, he expressed his hope that the feeling of unrest within the Army would not cause its personnel to stir up unpleasant incidents."

Such was the Emperor's talk.

At 2:30 Chief Secretary MATSUDAIRA telephoned to inform me of the situation in Tokyo.

At 4:00, returned home.

At 5:00, Mr. KANEMITSU visited me. I heard from him about the movements of the political parties regarding the New Organization as well as the opinion of the Military Affairs Bureau. According to him, there was considerable voice for Lieutenant General TOJO as War Minister at first but at present all favor only ANAMI.

At 7:30 MATSUI, Seikun visited and told me about the conversation between him and Prince KONOYE, whom he had visited at Karuizawa.

At about 8:00 TAKAHIKO came from Tokyo.

木戸侯日記 月、辰年

一九四〇年 昭和十五年 七月三十日(火) 晴

Doc 1632-RR

午前十時 摺建氏と面談

十一時出勤 十一時十分より十一時三十五分迄 拝謁

大不況連絡会議 決定案、実行に付、大に、如き御感
想、御漏れ相成たり 政府、陸軍海軍三者、何れも、

案、実行に就き、考へ異ふ所は、思へ、即ち近衛

首相、及那事者、甲々に付、トト見、之を、如く、

此際、及那に領地感、縮小し、用する、向し、トセ、

ト、ト換へ、及那事者、不承認、國民、不滿意、

方、振、向、持、考へ、之、ト、

陸軍、好機、及那事者、其儘、能、勢、用、之、

ト、ト、ト、考へ、

海軍、及那事者、解決、受、有、之、ト、ト、

方、用、之、ト、ト、考へ、

一時武官長来室 昨日内總長官 奏上、状、見、

ト、

一時中下條總裁来廳 面談

二時半退出

四時 定松君来訪 面談

矢子匿子より 帰、高岡雄君来訪 晩餐、共、

(Entry from Marquis KIDO's Diary for 30 July 1940)

Fair July 30 (Tues.)

Talked personally with Mr. Suridate at 9 A.M.

Went to the office at 10. Had audience with the Emperor from 10:10 to 11:35.

Regarding the execution of the plan decided upon in the Imperial Headquarters Liaison Conference, the Emperor expressed his opinion as follows:

"It seems to me that the Government, the Army and the Navy, respectively, have different opinions about the execution of the plan. Premier KONOYE seems to consider that the China Incident will not be settled easily, and favors advancing to the South at the cost of the reduction of the occupation area in China. In other words, he seems to be trying to divert the people's dissatisfaction, arising from the unsuccessful China Incident, to the South. The Army seems intending to advance to the South upon a good opportunity, leaving the China Incident as it is now. The Navy's opinion seems to be that unless the China Incident is first settled, we should not resort to force in the South."

At 1 P.M. the Chief Aide-de-Camp to His Majesty came to my room and told me what both Imperial Princes, the Chiefs of the Army and Navy General Staffs reported to the Throne.

At 1:30 P.M. President SHIMOUJI came to my office and we talked. He left at 2:30.

At 4 P.M. Mr. KOREMATSU came and talked.

EMIKO came back to Tokyo from Zushi.

NORIO called on me and we had dinner together.

IPS DOC. NO. 1632 VV

EXCERPT FROM KIDO'S DIARY

August 16, 1938. Tuesday

Attended Cabinet meeting 10 A.M. Heard from Foreign Minister UGAKI report on the five Minister's Conference which was continued the previous meeting.

Attended the meeting of Councillors. Went to work in my office at 2 o'clock.

Doc. # 1632-UV

木戸展日記

一九三八年八月十六日 ヨリ、板葺

八月十六日 (火)

晴

午前十時開議ニ出席 宇垣外相より前會ニ引續キ

五相會議、報告ヲ聽ク

終議、會合ニ出席

二時本府ニ出勤